Compensation of members 1864, res 4

SEC. 15 The General Assembly may continue its session so long as, in its judgment, the public interest may require, for a period not longer than ninety days; and each member thereof, shall receive a compensation of five dollars per diem, for every day he shall attend the session; but not for such days as he may be absent, unless absent on account of sickness, or by leave of the house of which he is a member; and he shall also receive such mileage as may be allowed by law, not exceeding twenty cents per mile; and the presiding officer of each house shall receive an additional compensation of three dollars per day. When the General Assembly shall be convened by proclamation of the governor, the session shall not continue longer than thirty days; and in such case, the compensation shall be the same as herein prescribed

Extra sessions

SEC 16 No book, or other printed matter, not appertaining to the business of Books not to be the session, shall be purchased, or subscribed for, for the use of the members of the General Assembly, or be distributed among them, at the public expense

Disqualifications to hold certain offices.

purchased.

SEC 17 No senator or delegate, after qualifying as such, notwithstanding he may thereafter resign, shall during the whole period of time for which he was elected, be eligible to any office which shall have been created, or the salary or profits of which shall have been increased, during such term.

Exemption for words in debate

SEC 18 No senator or delegate shall be liable in any civil action, or criminal prosecution, whatever, for words spoken in debate

Powers of each

SEC 19 Each house shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the State, shall appoint its own officers, determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful behavior, and with the consent of twothirds of its whole number of members elected, expel a member; but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offence.

Quarum

SEC 20. A majority of the whole number of members elected to each house shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties, as each house may prescribe

Sessions to be open

SEC 21 The doors of each house, and of the committee of the whole shall be open, except when the business is such as ought to be kept secret

Journals to be published Yeas and nays

SEC. 22 Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and cause the The yeas and nays of members on any question same to be published shall at the call of any five of them in the House of Delegates, or one in the Senate, be entered on the journal

1853, c 36 Imprisonment of disorderly persons.

SEC 23 Each house may punish by imprisonment, during the session of the General Assembly, any person, not a member, for disrespectful or disorderly behavior in its presence, or for obstructing any of its proceedings, or any of its officers in the execution of their duties; provided such imprisonment shall not, at any one time, exceed ten days

SEC 24 The House of Delegates may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into

Powers of the House of Delegates.

Grand inquest

Power to send for persons and papers 7 Md. 466

all complaints, grievances, and offences as the grand inquest of the State, and may commit any person, for any crime, to the public jail, there to remain until discharged by due course of law. They may examine and pass all accounts of the State, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the revenue, and appoint auditors to state and adjust the same They may call for all public or official papers and records, and send for persons, whom they may judge necessary, in the course of their inquiries, concerning affairs relating to the public interest, and may direct all office bonds which shall be made payable to the State, to be sued for any breach thereof, and with the view to the more certain prevention or correction of the abuses in the expenditures of the money of the State, the General Assembly shall create, at every session thereof, a joint standing committee of the Senate and House of Delegates, who shall have power to send for persons and examine them on oath, and call for public or official papers and records, and whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon all con-